

THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
GUILFORD,  
CONNECTICUT,

FROM  
ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT IN 1639.

*FROM THE MANUSCRIPTS*  
OF  
HON. RALPH D. SMITH.

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the settlers of Windsor where he seems to have resided until he came to Guilford in 1651. His daughter, Johanna Rossiter, was married Nov. 7, 1660, to John Cotton, the son of the celebrated John Cotton of Massachusetts. After the marriage he preached occasionally at Guilford and at Killingworth, where he was hired for a considerable period (about 1670), as appears from the records of that town, until he finally returned to Massachusetts and was a distinguished pastor of the church at Plymouth for many years. Cotton Mather calls him one by whom not only the English but also the Indians of America have the glad tidings of salvation carried to them. He supplied the church at Guilford jointly with Mr. John Bowers, previous to the settlement of Mr. Joseph Elliott, 1664. He had two children born in Guilford.

John Meigs came to Guilford from New Haven, where he seems to have resided previously, and was admitted a planter on his buying a hundred pound allotment at Hammonasset on its settlement March 3, 1653-4. He seems to have become unpopular and removed to Killingworth on its first settlement, where he died, as appears by the Killingworth Town Records, January 4, 1671. When he first came to Guilford, his father Vincent Meigs, who appears to have been old at that time, came with him and died at Hammonasset, 1658. John Meigs, Jun., came to Guilford from Killingworth, soon after his father's death, and settled in the east part of the town where his posterity are numerous to this day.

William Seward came originally from Bristol, England, and settled first at New Haven, and, while residing there he was married to Miss Grace Norton of Guilford, April 2, 1651. He soon after removed to Guilford and took the oath of fidelity there May 4, 1654. He appears to have been a tanner, a man of considerable property and eminence in the town. For a long time he was captain of the guard in Guilford, and an anecdote

<i>Abm. Cruttenden Sen.</i> ,	died Jan., 1683.
<i>Wm. Dudley</i> ,	" Mar. 16, 1684.
Wm. Johnson,	" Oct. 27, 1702.
Benjn. Wright, Sen.,	" Mar. 29, 1677
William Stone,	" Nov. 1683.
<i>Thomas Cooke</i> ,	" Dec. 1, 1692.
John Stevens,	" Sept. 1, 1670.
<i>John Fowler</i> ,	" Sept. 14, 1676.
John Hill,	" June 8, 1689.
<i>John Parmelin, Sen.</i> ,	" Nov. 8, 1659.
John Evarts,	" May 9, 1669.
Thomas French,	" Mar. 2, 1689.
William Seward,	" Jan., 1703.
William Stevens,	" July 28, 1668.
<i>Henry Kingsnorth</i> ,	" May 7, 1676.
<i>Richard Guttridge</i> ,	" Aug. 31, 1668.
Henry Doud,	" May 7, 1669.
<i>William Hall</i> ,	" Aug. 27, 1671.
<i>John Scranton</i> ,	" Oct. 28, 1680.
<i>Edward Benton</i> ,	" June 9, 1672.
Dan. Benton,	" Jan. 10, 1671-2.
John Meigs,	" Sept., 1683.
<i>Rich'd Bristow</i> ,	" Nov., 1681.
John Johnson,	" June 1, 1670.
John Sheader,	" 1692.
Rich. Hubball,	" Jan. 1687-8.
<i>John Parmelin, Jun.</i> ,	" Sept. 25, 1694.
Ab'm Cruttenden, Jun.,	" Dec. 31, 1695.
John Graves,	" Jan. 21, 1692-3.
Geo. Highland,	" Sept., 1670.
John Rossiter,	
John Baldwin, left 1661 for Norwich.	
Thos. Clark,	buried Oct. 10, 1668.

Rich. Hughes,	died July 3, 1658.
<i>John Stone,</i>	" Feb., 1687.
<i>George Bartlett,</i>	" Aug. 2, 1669.
Henry Goldam,	" 1661.
Nicholas Munger,	" Oct. 16, 1668.
Geo. Chatfield,	" June 9, 1671.
John Bishop, Jr.,	" Oct., 1683.
Stephen Bishop,	" June, 1690.

This list contains the names of forty-seven persons probably all freemen, as at the time the list was made out there were many others resident in Guilford and planters not named. Of the twenty-eight freemen on the former list of 1650, the nineteen mentioned again are those in italics. Mr. John Higginson, the clergyman, is not mentioned again as he was the minister, or probably had left the colony of which he was certainly not a member in 1659. Mr. Whitfield, Mr. Sam. Disborough and Mr. Thomas Jordan had returned to England. Thomas Betts had removed to Norwalk in Fairfield county, 1656 or 1657. Alexander Chalker had removed to Saybrook as early as 1654. Thomas Jones had probably removed to England with Mr. Thomas Jordan, who went back two years after Mr. Whitfield in 1654. Mr. Whitfield took one of his sons (John Whitfield) back with him, the other Nathaniel remained and was admitted a free-man as before stated, June 8, 1654. He returned to England about the same year and became a distinguished merchant in London and was agent of Mr Disborow in that city in 1664. Mr. Thomas Jones left Mr. William Chittenden as his agent here, as did the others who went back to England. He also left a son or nephew, Samuel Jones, and, on the sale of his lands by his said agent, March 4, 1667 to John Meigs, it is stated that "the alienation was made with the free consent of the said Samuel Jones who laid some claim to the lands as being the heir thereto." Jasper Stillwell had died Nov., 1656. John Evarts, the only

Farmington about 1692, Peter Tallman from England, about 1684, Thomas Griswold from Wethersfield, about 1695, John Baily, John Sergeant, Mathew Bellamy and Ephraim Darwin, came earlier. Andrew Ward (grandson of Andrew Ward, one of the first settlers of Wethersfield, and one of the first judges of the county court, in Hartford, and son of Andrew Ward who removed from Stamford, and married Tryal Meigs, the daughter of the first John Meigs who became a settler of Killingworth, in 1668), came to Guilford with his mother, Tryal Ward about 1690. Charles Caldwell came first from Evain, Scotland, to Hartford, and removed to Guilford about 1710. Shubel Shelly arrived about 1714; Comfort and Jehosaphat Starr, from Middletown, about 1690 or 1700. Comfort Starr was a tailor and purchased, 1692, the home lot of John Collins, on Crooked Lane, now State street, nearly opposite to where Abraham S. Fowler recently lived. *Stephen Dodd* was admitted a planter Dec. 14, 1676. *Samuel Baldwin* was invited by the inhabitants to come from Fairfield, his former residence, to settle as a smith, 1675, and was admitted a planter on condition of his serving them as a smith, Feb. 8, 1675-6. Such was the need of the inhabitants for some one to serve in his trade that they granted him liberty "to take up one-half an acre of land upon the green, between John Bishop's barn and the saw-pit all along against the front of said Bishop's home lot according as it is now laid out to him," being in front of nearly all the east side of the green. Mr. *Thomas Robinson* bought out the land, which was originally owned by John Caffinge, as early as 1666, and afterward became one of the wealthiest of the settlers. He was noted for a long and very expensive lawsuit with the town, originating from his taking up land on the front of his lot, which was claimed by the town. The suits which grew out of this act were appealed eventually to the legislature, and finally were adjusted and settled by the interposition of a com-

runs from the last station as that stream runs southerly until the said stream or river falls into the sea on the east of East end point, the said land having been by purchase or otherwise lawfully obtained of the Indian natives proprietors ; and whereas the proprietors, inhabitants of Guilford in the colony of Connecticut, have made application to the governor and company of said colony of Connecticut assembled in court May 25th, 1685, that they may have a *patent* for confirmation of the aforesaid land to them so purchased and granted to them as aforesaid and which they have stood seized and quietly possessed of for many years last past without interruption : now for a more full confirmation of the aforesaid tracts of land as it is butted and bounded aforesaid unto the present proprietors of the township of Guilford,—

Know ye that the said governor and company assembled in General Court according to the commission granted to them by his majesty in his charter have given granted and by these presents do give grant ratify and confirm unto Andrew Leete Esquire, Mr. Josiah Rossiter, Lieut. William Seward, Deacon William Johnson, Deacon John Graves, Mr. John Collins, Mr. John Stone, Mr. Stephen Bishop, Sergt. Daniel Hubbard, Mr. Abraham Cruttenden, Sergt. John Chittenden and Mr. John Meigs and the rest of the said present proprietors of the township of Guilford, their heirs, successors and assigns forever, the aforesaid tract and parcel of land as it is butted and bounded, together with all the wood uplands and meadows, pastures, ponds, waters, rivers, islands, fishings, huntings, fowlings, mines, minerals, quarries and precious stones, upon or within the said tract of land

and all other profits and commodities thereunto belonging or in any ways appertaining, and do also grant unto the aforesaid Andrew Leete Esquire, Mr. Josiah Rossiter, Lieut. William Seward, Deacon William Johnson, Deacon John Graves, Mr. John Collins, Mr. John Stone, Mr. Stephen Bishop, Sergt. Daniel Hubbard, Mr. Abraham Cruttenden, Mr. John Chittenden and Mr. John Meigs and the rest of the proprietors inhabitants of Guilford, their heirs, successors and assigns forever, that the aforesaid tract of land shall be forever hereafter deemed reputed and be an entire township of itself, to have and to hold the said tract of land and premises with all and singular their appurtenances, together with the privileges and immunities franchises herein given and granted unto the said Andrew Leete Esquire, Mr. Josiah Rossiter, Lieut. William Seward, Deacon William Johnson, Deacon John Graves, Mr. John Collins, Mr. John Stone, Mr. Stephen Bishop, Sergt. Daniel Hubbard, Mr. Abraham Cruttenden, Sergt. John Chittenden and Mr. John Meigs, and other the present proprietors, inhabitants of Guilford their heirs, successors and assigns forever, and to the only proper use and behoof of the said Andrew Leete Esquire, Mr. Josiah Rossiter, Lieut. William Seward, Deacon William Johnson, Deacon John Graves, Mr. John Collins, Mr. John Stone, Mr. Stephen Bishop, Sergt. Daniel Hubbard, Mr. Abraham Cruttenden, Sergt. John Chittenden and Mr. John Meigs and the other proprietors inhabitants of Guilford their heirs, & successors forever according the tenor of East Greenwich in Kent in free and common soccage and not in capite nor by knight service, they to make improvement of the same